

Objection to the Proposed Rosefield Solar Farm

I wish to register my objection to the proposed Rosefield Solar Farm due to the significant and cumulative impacts the development would have on local residents, the rural landscape, infrastructure, and community wellbeing.

Construction Traffic and Disruption

The construction phase of this project would introduce a substantial volume of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) onto local roads that are already narrow and unsuitable for such levels of industrial traffic. Road closures, diversions and increased traffic will likely cause disruption to residents, school transport, and local businesses. Rural lanes in this area are not designed to safely accommodate sustained HGV movements, raising serious concerns regarding congestion, road safety, and access for emergency services.

Noise and Disturbance

The prolonged construction period would inevitably generate significant noise from construction machinery, deliveries and associated works. This would negatively affect the daily lives of residents in nearby villages and properties. In addition, operational infrastructure such as inverters and associated equipment may introduce ongoing background noise in what is currently a quiet rural environment.

Impact on Local Businesses and Daily Life

Local businesses and essential daily activities such as school runs could be severely impacted by increased traffic and potential road restrictions. Prolonged disruption could place unnecessary pressure on already stretched rural infrastructure and negatively affect the viability of local services.

Impact on Public Rights of Way

The proposed development could affect access to existing public footpaths, bridleways and rights of way that are widely used by local residents and visitors. These routes are an important part of the rural character and provide opportunities for recreation, wellbeing, and access to the countryside. Any disruption or loss of these routes would significantly reduce public enjoyment of the landscape.

Battery Energy Storage Safety Concerns

The proposal includes battery energy storage systems (BESS), which raise safety concerns due to their proximity to residential areas. Residents are understandably concerned about the potential risk of fire, thermal runaway incidents, and the implications for local emergency services that may not have the specialist resources required to respond to such events.

Cumulative Impact on the Local Area

Perhaps most importantly, this proposal must be considered in the context of the cumulative burden already placed on this community. The area surrounding the Claydons has already been significantly affected by major infrastructure projects including High Speed 2, East West Rail, the nearby Greatmoor Energy from Waste Facility, the proposed HMP Grendon Springhill expansion, as well as other energy infrastructure including large substations and battery storage proposals. Local communities are already experiencing significant environmental, traffic and landscape impacts from these developments. The addition of another large-scale solar and battery infrastructure project would place further strain on the area and fundamentally change the character of the countryside.

Conclusion

While renewable energy generation is important, it must be delivered in a way that is balanced, proportionate and sensitive to the communities and landscapes affected. In this case, the scale and location of the proposed development would result in unacceptable impacts on residents, local infrastructure and the rural character of the area.

For the reasons outlined above, I respectfully urge the Planning Inspectorate to carefully consider the cumulative and local impacts of this proposal and to refuse consent for the development.